

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS & INTERFERENCES**

In re Patent Application of:

Customer No.: 41230

William J. Jones et al

Application No.: 09/967,232

Confirmation No.: 1787

Filed: September 28, 2001

Art Unit: 3653

For: **SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR PROCESSING
CURRENCY BILLS AND SUBSTITUTE
CURRENCY MEDIA IN
A SINGLE DEVICE**

Examiner: J. A. Shapiro

United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Commissioner for Patents
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Sir:

The following Reply Brief is timely submitted in support of the appeal proceedings instituted by the Notice of Appeal filed March 24, 2009, to appeal the Examiner's final rejections in the Final Office Action of December 18, 2008. In particular, the Reply Brief responds to the Examiner's Answer mailed on September 16, 2009.

As stated in the Appeal Brief, this Appeal is taken from the rejection of claims 1-6, 11, 12, 15, 17-20, 22-29, 33, 35, 36, 38-40, 49-56, 59, 65, 68-70, 79, 80, 87, and 89, as submitted in the Appendix herewith.

I. RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S "RESPONSE TO ARGUMENT"

On pages 12-13 of the Examiner's Answer, the Examiner states:

Essentially, Munro, assigned to Appellants, discloses all of the elements of claim 1 except a processing module that also includes a substitute funds sensor. A barcode reader, as taught and disclosed by Izawa is considered to be just such a sensor. Izawa also includes a sensor for reading regular currency bills in the same machine. See Izawa at col. 2, line 47-col. 3, line 36 and col. 5, lines 21-44. Appellants assert that because Izawa does not disclose nor teach an input receptacle to accept a stack of mixed currency bills and substitute funds that Izawa cannot be combined with Munro. However, Izawa is not being used for its teaching of accepting stacks of mixed currency types, but of incorporation of a barcode sensor that will effectuate processing and validating both regular currency bills and substitute documents in the same device, i.e., using the same document path. Also note that regardless of whether the stack is fed in from an input receptacle or one by one, the process is the same. In other words, even a stack of bills is fed in one by one into the device from either the top or bottom of said stack. And again, note that Munro discloses such an input receptacle (12 and 209) as illustrated in figures 1 and 2a. Munro also discloses multiple bill stacking units (20) also in figure 2a. A discriminating sensor (18a,b) that is configured for evaluating regular currency bills is disclosed by Munro at col. 27, line 42-col. 28, line 5.

Izawa discloses a bill validator (10) with a magnetic sensor (20) and an infrared sensor for discriminating regular currency bills. Izawa also discloses barcode sensors (24, 25) which sense barcoded documents other than regular currency bills. Such documents include coupons, valuable securities or negotiable papers, as mentioned in the field of invention at col. 1, lines 5-10. Both sets of sensors are located along the passageway (13). See Izawa, figure 1 and col. 3, line 50-col. 4, line 10.

Since one ordinarily skilled in the art would have recognized the applicability of Izawa's barcode sensors to Munro's document processing apparatus in light of Izawa's teaching of having both regular currency bill and substitute currency sensors along a single document passageway, it would have been obvious to combine Munro and Izawa to obtain Appellant's claimed apparatus with the predictable results of processing stacks of mixed regular currency and substitute currency.

Appellants assert that Munro and Izawa cannot be combined without modifying the principle operation of one of the references. However, as illustrated previously, all that is added to Munro are additional sensors to read barcoded documents, i.e., substitute documents. Appellants' concentration on what Izawa fails to teach is noted, however, such concentration is misplaced. The examiner's rejection is based on a modification of the Munro system not a modification of the Izawa system.

Appellants respectfully submit that the system of Munro cannot be modified with the teachings of Izawa to produce the claimed inventions with a reasonable expectation of success and with sufficiently predictability. According to the *M.P.E.P.*, "The prior art can be modified or combined to reject claims as *prima facie* obvious as long as there is a reasonable expectation of success." *M.P.E.P.* § 2143.02 I. Additionally, the *M.P.E.P.* explains that "at least some degree of predictability is required." *Id.* § 2143.02 II.

Munro explains, "[i]n one embodiment, bills are scanned and identified at a rate in excess of 800 bills per minute." Munro, column 27, lines 54-56. Employing the input receptacle 12 of Munro to receive stacks of currency bills is particularly appropriate for the automated embodiments of Munro which process bills at such a high rate. However, the bill handling apparatus of Izawa '406 cannot process bills at a high rate, because it can only accommodate one bill at a time. *See* Izawa '406, column 3, lines 58-59. Izawa '406 teaches that when a problem is detected with a bill, the bill is returned to the inlet 12 where it was initially inserted. *See id.*, column 6, lines 35-40. If multiple bills were inserted through the inlet 12 to be in the passageway 13 at the same time, the apparatus would be unable to return a bill to the inlet 12 without interference from other bills in the passageway 13, and the movement of the conveyor means 16 in the reverse direction would interfere with the processing of the other bills. *See id.*, column 6, lines 35-40. Thus, additional bills cannot be received by the passageway 13 until a preceding bill is completely processed and there is no chance that the bill will be returned. Moreover, the processing of each bill must be individually monitored in case a bill is returned to the inlet 12, so that a returned bill can be removed from the inlet 12 to allow other bills to be inserted into the inlet 12. Thus, contrary to the high rate processing taught by Munro, Izawa '406 employs an approach that accommodates one bill at a time and that may even require manual intervention.

Although Munro may disclose “an input receptacle or bill accepting station 12 where stacks of currency bills that need to be identified and counted are positioned” (Munro, column 27, lines 46-48), the apparatus of Munro cannot be combined with the teachings of Izawa ‘406 to achieve the claimed invention, because the teachings of Izawa ‘406 prohibit the input receptacle from having a stack of bills. In particular, Izawa ‘406 discloses an inlet 12 that is merely a slot for receiving a single bill and that cannot accommodate a stack of a mixed combination of barcoded documents and paper currency. See, *e.g.*, Izawa ‘406, column 3, lines 56-59; FIG. 1. In addition, Izawa ‘406 teaches that when a problem is detected with a bill, the bill is returned to the inlet 12 where it was initially inserted. See *id.*, column 6, lines 35-40. Thus, to enable the bill handling apparatus of Izawa ‘406 to operate according to this teaching, no other bills, such as a stack of bills, can be positioned at the inlet 12 during processing, because these other bills would block a returned bill from passing through the inlet 12. Because a single bill, at most, can be provided at the inlet 12 when the bill handling apparatus is not still processing another bill, the teachings of Izawa ‘406 are incompatible with the use of the input receptacle 12 by Munro.

Because Munro and Izawa ‘406 disclose extremely different approaches for processing bills, it would not have been reasonable for one of ordinary skill in the art to expect that combining the teachings of Izawa ‘406 and Munro would produce the claimed invention. The results of such a combination would not be sufficiently predictable. In particular, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that the apparatus of Munro could be modified with the teachings of Izawa ‘406 without losing the ability to process bills at a high rate in an automated manner or to process a stack of a mixed combination of barcoded documents and paper currency as taught by Munro.

The Examiner explains that “Izawa is not being used for its teaching of accepting stacks of mixed currency types, but of incorporation of a barcode sensor that will effectuate processing and validating both regular currency bills and substitute documents in the same device, i.e., using the same document path.” (Examiner’s Answer, page 13, lines 1-4.) In addition, the Examiner repeats on pages 14-16:

Appellants at p. 26 refer to the rejection of the dependent claims 5, 6, 23 and 24.

However, Munro discloses at col. 43, lines 10-15, operation at speeds of between 800 and 1500 bills per minute. Appellants assert at p. 27, lines 3 and 4, that Izawa cannot process bills at a high rate. However, Izawa is not being used for such a teaching.

Munro discloses operation at high speeds. Again, Izawa is only used for its teaching of including a second sensor, i.e., a barcode sensor, for processing other types of documents beside regular currency.

By attempting to simply pick the barcode sensor in isolation from Izawa '406 and insert it into the apparatus of Munro, the Examiner fails to consider Munro and Izawa '406 in their entirety. According to the *M.P.E.P.*, “[a] prior art reference must be considered in its entirety, i.e., as a whole, including portions that would lead away from the claimed invention.” *M.P.E.P.* § 2141.02 VI. (*citing W.L. Gore & Assoc., Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540 (Fed. Cir. 1983)) (emphasis in original). Considering the applied references in their entirety, one of ordinary skill in the art could not sufficiently predict that the barcode sensor in Izawa '406 would be compatible with the apparatus of Munro. The Examiner's modification of Munro assumes, *without any evidence*, that the barcode sensor Izawa '406 would be able to process bills at the high rates taught by Munro. However, the incompatibility between the teachings of Munro and Izawa '406 as a whole strongly suggests that the apparatus of Munro cannot be modified successfully with the barcode sensor of Izawa '406.

Accordingly, the teachings of Munro and Izawa '406 are not combinable to establish sufficient grounds for a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Therefore, reversal of the rejection of claims 1, 5, 6, 11, 15, 17-20, 22-24, 33-36, 38-40, 49, 56, 59, 65, 68, 79, 80, 87 and 89 is in order and is respectfully requested.

Due to the incompatibility between the teachings of Munro and Izawa '406 described above, combining the teachings of Izawa '406 and Munro as suggested by the Examiner would improperly require the principle of operation of one of the references to be modified. *See M.P.E.P.* § 2143.01 VI. Moreover, the Examiner's attempt to simply pick the barcode sensor in isolation from Izawa '406 and insert it into the apparatus of Munro strongly suggests that the Office Action is applying impermissible hindsight. *See M.P.E.P.* § 2142.

The Examiner also argues on pages 12 and 16 of the Examiner's Answer:

Appellants have attacked the two references, Munro and Izawa separately. However, in response to applicant's arguments against the references individually, one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Koller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

As demonstrated by the foregoing discussion, however, Appellants respectfully submit that the applied references are not being attacked individually, but are discussed in relation to each other to establish that they cannot be combined to achieve the claimed invention.

Appellants respectfully maintain the arguments of the Appeal Brief filed May 29, 2009.

II. CONCLUSION

In view of the above arguments, and in view of the arguments previously presented in the Appeal Brief, Appellants respectfully submit that all pending claims 1-6, 11, 12, 15, 17-20, 22-29, 33, 35, 36, 38-40, 49-56, 59, 65, 68-70, 79, 80, 87, and 89 define patentable subject matter under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Accordingly, Appellants respectfully request that this Honorable Board reverse the rejections of claims 1-6, 11, 12, 15, 17-20, 22-29, 33, 35, 36, 38-40, 49-56, 59, 65, 68-70, 79, 80, 87, and 89.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees which may be required during the entire pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-4181.

Dated: November 16, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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III. CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. (Previously Presented) A funds processing system including at least one funds processing machine in which a user inputs currency bills and substitute funds, the at least one funds processing machine comprising:
 - an input receptacle configured to receive a stack of a mixed combination of currency bills and substitute funds;
 - a processing module coupled to the input receptacle and configured to receive the currency bills and substitute funds from the stack in the input receptacle and to process the currency bills and substitute funds, the processing module being configured to distinguish currency bills from substitute funds and valid substitute funds from invalid substitute funds; and
 - a return receptacle coupled to the processing module and configured to return the substitute funds to the operator of the funds processing machine.
2. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the substitute funds are casino script.
3. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the substitute funds are paper tokens.
4. (Original) The system of claim 1, wherein the substitute funds are bar coded tickets.
5. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 1, wherein the processing module is configured to scan and count the currency bills and substitute funds at a high rate of speed.
6. (Original) The system of claim 5, wherein the high rate of speed is at least 350 documents per minute.
7. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 1 further comprising:
 - a host system communicatively coupled to the at least one funds processing machine; and
 - a casino gaming network communicatively coupled to the at least one funds processing machine and to the host system.
- 8-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) A system for processing both currency bills and substitute currency media, the system including a document processing apparatus, the apparatus comprising:

an input receptacle configured to receive a stack of a mixed combination of currency bills and substitute currency media;

at least one output receptacle configured to receive currency bills and substitute currency media after the currency bills and substitute currency media have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism configured to transport the currency bills and substitute currency media, one at a time, from the stack in the input receptacle to the at least one output receptacle along a transport path;

an evaluation unit comprising at least one currency detector disposed along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacle, the at least one currency detector being capable of evaluating currency bills, and a first media detector disposed along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacle, the first media detector being capable of evaluating substitute currency media, the evaluating unit being configured to distinguish currency bills from substitute currency media and to distinguish valid substitute currency media from invalid substitute currency media; and

a controller coupled to the evaluation unit, the controller being configured to control the operation of the transport mechanism and the operation of the evaluation unit.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising a communications port electrically coupled to the controller.

13. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 12 further comprising a coin sorting apparatus communicatively coupled to the communications port of the document processing apparatus, said coin sorting apparatus sorting and counting a plurality of coins into one or more coin hoppers, said coin sorting apparatus including communications means for communicating information associated with said counting of said plurality of coins.

14. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the controller causes the transport mechanism to halt in response to the detection of a particular currency bill or substitute currency

medium that meets or fails to meet one or more criteria, wherein the halting causes the particular currency bill or substitute currency medium to be located at a predetermined position.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the controller flags a currency bill or substitute currency medium meeting or failing to meet one or more criteria, the currency bill or substitute currency medium meeting or failing to meet one or more criteria being termed a flagged document, the apparatus further comprising a routing interface comprising a data retrieval device, the data retrieval device receiving information from a user of the apparatus specifying a set of one or more output receptacles to which flagged documents are to be directed.

16. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 15 further comprising a control unit coupled to the controller, the control unit including denomination keys, each of the denomination keys being associated with a different amount of currency, the selection of one of the denomination keys causing the associated amount of currency to be added to a running total amount of currency processed by the device.

17. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising a control unit coupled to the controller, the control unit being configured to receive information from a user of the apparatus and to display information to a user of the apparatus.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the information displayed to a user includes characteristic information detected by the first media detector from a substitute currency medium.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the characteristic information includes the value associated with a substitute currency medium.

20. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the substitute currency media are barcoded tickets having a barcode disposed thereon, each barcoded ticket having a ticket number, the displayed characteristic information including the ticket number of the barcoded ticket detected by the first media detector.

21. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the control unit includes a touch screen.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the control unit includes a video display.
23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the evaluation unit evaluates the currency bills and substitute currency media at a rate of at least about 1000 documents per minute.
24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the evaluation unit evaluates the currency bills and substitute currency media at a rate of at least about 1500 documents per minute.
25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising a document facing mechanism coupled to said evaluation unit, said document facing mechanism being configured to rotate the orientation of the substitute currency media in one direction.
26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising a second media detector disposed along the transport path and proximate the at least one currency detector, wherein the first media detector is configured to detect at least one characteristic of a first type of substitute currency media and the second media detector is configured to detect at least one characteristic of a second type of substitute currency media, the first type of substitute currency media being different from the second type of substitute currency media.
27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the first type of substitute currency media includes a barcode encoded according to a first barcode symbology and wherein the first media detector is configured to read a barcode encoded according to the first barcode symbology.
28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 27, wherein the second type of substitute currency media includes a barcode encoded according to a second barcode symbology and wherein the second media detector is configured to read a barcode encoded according to the second barcode symbology.
29. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11 further comprising a second media detector capable of evaluating substitute currency media, the first media detector and the second media detector being disposed on opposite sides of the transport path so as to be disposed adjacent to first and

second opposing surfaces of the currency bills or substitute currency media passing along the transport path.

30. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the at least one output receptacle is exactly one output receptacle.

31. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the at least one output receptacle is exactly two output receptacles.

32. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the at least one output receptacle is at least eight output receptacles.

33. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the media detector includes a barcode reader.

34. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 33 further comprising memory means for storing information associated with at least one barcode identified by the barcode reader.

35. (Original) The apparatus of claim 33 further comprising a mirror proximate the barcode reader, the mirror being positioned to deflect a light beam outputted from the barcode reader onto the surface of a document being transported along the transport path.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the substitute currency media have a barcode pattern disposed on at least one surface thereof, and wherein the controller is configured to convert an electrical signal generated by the barcode reader into a set of characters, the electrical signal being generated in response to the scanning of a valid barcode pattern.

37. (Withdrawn –Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 36 further comprising:
a memory coupled to the controller, the memory being configured to store at least a first set of characters provided by the controller; and
a communications port coupled to the controller, the communications port being configured to transmit the at least first set of characters.

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the currency detector is configured to detect at least one characteristic of a currency bill.
39. (Original) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the at least one characteristic is one of size, thickness, color, magnetism, reflectivity, absorbability, transmissivity, electrical conductivity, and serial number.
40. (Original) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the at least one detection means is an optical scan head.
41. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the at least one detection means is a magnetic sensor.
42. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the at least one detection means is a size detection sensor.
43. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the at least one detection means is a density sensor.
44. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the at least one detection means is a thread sensor.
45. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the at least one detection means is an infrared sensor.
46. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the at least one detection means is an ultraviolet scan head.
47. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the at least one detection means is a fluorescent light scan head.
48. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the at least one detection means is a full image scanner.

49. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 33, wherein the substitute currency media are barcoded media having a barcode on at least one surface thereof.
50. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the barcode is a linear barcode.
51. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the barcoded media are casino script.
52. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the barcoded media are casino cashout tickets.
53. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the barcoded media are retailer coupons.
54. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the barcoded media are gift certificates.
55. (Original) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the barcoded media have substantially the same dimensions as U.S. currency bills.
56. (Previously Presented) A system adapted to rapidly count and evaluate currency bills and barcoded media, the barcoded media having a barcode disposed on at least one surface thereof, the system comprising:
 - an input receptacle configured to receive a stack of documents, the documents including a mixed combination of currency bills and barcoded media;
 - at least one output receptacle configured to receive at least a portion of the stack of documents after the documents have been evaluated;
 - a transport mechanism configured to transport the documents, one at a time, from the stack in the input receptacle to the at least one output receptacle along a transport path;
 - an evaluation unit including a first sensor disposed along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacle, the first sensor being configured to detect at least one characteristic of a currency bill, and a first barcode reader disposed along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacle, the barcode reader being configured to scan a barcode; and

a controller coupled to the evaluation unit, the controller being configured to control the operation of the transport mechanism and the operation of the evaluation unit.

57. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the first barcode reader is configured to scan at least 500 barcodes per minute.

58. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the first barcode reader is configured to scan at least 1000 barcodes per minute.

59. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein the first barcode reader is configured to output an electrical signal representing a barcode symbol, the controller being configured to convert the electrical signal into a barcode number.

60. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The system of claim 59 further comprising memory coupled to the controller, the memory being configured to store the barcode number.

61. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The system of claim 59 further comprising a communications port coupled to the controller, the communications port being configured to communicatively link the controller to a computer network.

62. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 61, wherein the computer network is a casino gaming machine network.

63. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 61, wherein the computer network is a retailer network.

64. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The system of claim 62, wherein the controller is configured to retrieve a monetary amount associated with the barcode number from the casino gaming machine network.

65. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56 further comprising a control unit coupled to the controller, the control unit being configured to display the number of barcoded media processed by the apparatus.

66. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 65, wherein the control unit is a touch panel display.

67. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 65, wherein said control unit is a touch/video display.
68. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 59 further comprising a control unit coupled to the controller, the control unit being configured to display the barcode number.
69. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The system of claim 64, wherein the controller is configured to add the monetary amount associated with the barcode number to a running total.
70. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 69, wherein the running total includes the monetary value of at least one currency bill evaluated by the evaluation unit.
71. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 56 further comprising a second barcode reader coupled to the controller, the first barcode reader and the second barcode reader being disposed on opposite sides of the transport path.
72. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The system of claim 56 further comprising a printer coupled to the controller, the controller being configured to generate a report, the report including the total amount of authentic currency bills processed from the stack of documents and the total number of substitute currency media processed from the stack of documents, the printer being configured to print at least a portion of the report.
73. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The system of claim 56 further comprising a printer coupled to the controller, the printer being configured to dispense a barcoded ticket to a user of the device.
74. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 73, wherein the barcoded ticket includes a barcode associated with the total amount of currency bills and substitute currency media processed by the device.
75. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 56 wherein the at least one output receptacle is exactly one output receptacle.
76. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 56 wherein the at least one output receptacle is exactly two output receptacles.

77. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 56 wherein the at least one output receptacle is at least eight output receptacles.

78. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 56, wherein the barcode reader has a height of about 3 inches, a width of about 2.13 inches, and a depth of about 1.63 inches.

79. (Previously Presented) A document processing apparatus for processing a stack of currency bills and barcoded media, comprising:

- an input receptacle configured to receive a stack of documents including a mixed combination of currency bills of mixed denominations and barcoded media;
- a plurality of output receptacles each configured to receive at least a portion of the stack of documents;
- a transport mechanism configured to transport the currency bills and barcoded media, one at a time, from the stack in the input receptacle to one of the plurality of output receptacles;
- an evaluation unit disposed along the transport path between the input receptacle and the plurality of output receptacles, the evaluation unit comprising at least one currency sensor and a barcode reader positioned adjacent the transport path, the at least one currency sensor being configured to obtain denomination characteristic information of a first currency bill, the barcode reader being configured to scan for a barcode on a document from the stack of documents passing along the transport path, a document on which the barcode reader detects a barcode being termed a valid barcoded medium, a document on which the barcode reader does not detect a barcode being termed an invalid barcoded medium;
- a controller coupled to the evaluation unit, the controller being programmable for directing currency bills having a first denomination to a specified first output receptacle of the plurality of output receptacles, and for directing a barcoded media having a valid barcode disposed thereon to a specified second output receptacle of the plurality of output receptacles; and

a memory electrically coupled to the controller, the memory being configured to store the denominations of the currency bills and the characters associated with barcodes on barcoded media.

80. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 79, wherein the at least one currency sensor is further configured to obtain authenticating characteristic information of a currency bill, the controller being configured to compare the authenticating characteristic information with master authenticating information stored in a memory, the controller being further configured to compare the denomination characteristic information with master denomination information stored in a memory, wherein currency bills whose authenticating characteristic information satisfies a predetermined relationship with the master authenticating information are termed authentic bills, currency bills whose authenticating characteristic information does not satisfy a predetermined relationship with the master authenticating information are termed suspect bills, and currency bills whose denomination characteristic information does not satisfy a predetermined relationship with the master denomination characteristic information are termed no call bills.

81. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 80, wherein the controller is configured to direct no call bills to a specified third output receptacle of the plurality of output receptacles.

82. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 80, wherein the controller is configured to direct suspect bills to a specified third output receptacle of the plurality of output receptacles.

83. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 80, wherein the controller is configured to direct no call bills to a specified third output receptacle of the plurality of output receptacles and to direct suspect bills to a specified fourth output receptacle of the plurality of output receptacles.

84. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 80, wherein the controller is configured to direct no call bills and suspect bills to a specified third output receptacle.

85. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 80, wherein the controller is configured to direct invalid barcoded media to a specified third output receptacle.

86. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 80, wherein the controller is configured to direct invalid barcoded media to the specified second output receptacle.

87. (Previously Presented) A document processing apparatus adapted to process currency bills and substitute currency media, the apparatus comprising:

- an input receptacle configured to receive a stack of documents including a mixed combination of currency bills and substitute currency media, the substitute currency media being redeemable documents;

- at least one output receptacle configured to receive at least a portion of the documents after the portion of the documents have been evaluated;

- a transport mechanism configured to transport the documents, one at a time, from the stack in the input receptacle to the at least one output receptacle along a transport path;

- an evaluation unit comprising a first scanner disposed along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacle, the first scanner being capable of scanning for at least one characteristic associated with a currency bill, the evaluation unit further comprising a second scanner capable of scanning for at least one characteristic associated with a substitute currency medium, the evaluating unit being configured to distinguish currency bills from substitute currency media and to distinguish valid substitute currency media from invalid substitute currency media; and

- a controller coupled to the evaluation unit, the controller being configured to control the operation of the transport mechanism and the operation of the evaluation unit.

88. (Withdrawn – Previously Presented) A document processing apparatus for processing both currency bills and substitute currency media, the apparatus comprising:

- an input receptacle for receiving currency bills and substitute currency media;

- a plurality of output receptacles for receiving currency bills and substitute currency media after the currency bills and substitute currency media have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism for transporting the currency bills and substitute currency media, one at a time, from the input receptacle to one of the plurality of output receptacles along a transport path;

an evaluation unit comprising a scanhead disposed along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacle, the scanhead comprising a sensor for evaluating the currency bills and a barcode reader for evaluating the substitute currency media;

a controller coupled to the evaluation unit, the controller controlling the operation of the transport mechanism and the operation of the evaluation unit; and

an interface coupled to the controller, the interface being configured to receive instructions from an operator of the apparatus specifying one or more of the plurality of output receptacles to which currency bills and substitute currency media are to be directed.

89. (Previously Presented) A document processing apparatus for processing both currency bills and redeemable documents, the apparatus comprising:

an input receptacle for receiving a stack of a mixed combination of currency bills and redeemable documents;

a plurality of output receptacles for receiving currency bills and redeemable documents after the currency bills and the redeemable documents have been evaluated;

a transport mechanism for transporting the currency bills and redeemable documents, one at a time, from the stack in the input receptacle to selected ones of the plurality of output receptacles along a transport path;

an evaluation unit comprising a detector disposed along the transport path between the input receptacle and the output receptacle, the detector being configured to detect characteristic information associated with a currency bill and characteristic information associated with a redeemable document, the evaluating unit being configured to distinguish currency bills from redeemable documents and to distinguish valid redeemable documents from invalid redeemable documents; and

a controller coupled to the evaluation unit, the controller controlling the operation of the transport mechanism and the operation of the evaluation unit.

90-111. (Cancelled)